

Sermon on Tithing

It is unfortunate that so many Christians are ignorant regarding the Biblical principal of tithing. The reason, in most cases is because the clergy has failed to effectively teach on the subject, or when they do, misrepresent it. It is presented more like a plea to give to a fund-raiser or to support a charitable, or fraternal organization. All of these are worthy endeavors, but not relevant to what the Bible teaches about giving.

There are numerous Old and New Testaments verses referencing the giving of our tithes and offerings to God. I will not cite each one as they are quite numerous, but I have attached them below for you to read and reflect upon. In short, the giving of our wealth is commanded by God as a measure of our obedience and love for Him. Jesus said, *“He who loves me, is he that obeys me.”*

With that said, I am not going to tell you anything that God has not instructed regarding this difficult topic. My aim is to glorify Him and to edify you, His people; so, let us get to it.

Obedience equals blessing. The measure of our giving is the measure of our love for God and faith in His provision, regardless of what we see and understand in our present condition. Instead, it is relying on God’s promises. We have our example in the widow’s mites in the Book of St. Mark where; *“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”*

We have no further information regarding what became of the widow, she had no husband or son to provide for her, but I am certain God blessed her abundantly according to His promises. Her faith and love of God prompted her to give everything she had to survive, trusting God would provide for her every need. And how do I know that He did? because He promised it, as Jesus said, *“Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things; but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Our giving is evidence of our level of faith. We are trusting in giving to God, despite what we perceive our physical condition dictates. This is faith in action as described in the letter to the Hebrews, *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen.”* In this, we are trusting that God is faithful in His promises to provide for us while the worldly circumstances dictate, He will not. *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”* Proverbs 3:5

So just what is this tithe? By Biblical definition it is 10%. It is what God means when he speaks about giving. He means 10% of the gross as we would call it, before taxes and expenses. This is often a difficult pill to swallow for many, and a very difficult topic for preachers to teach on but 10% means 10%. You certainly will not get a better offer from the IRS or State Tax Board.

Immediately the rationalization we can not give 10% of our gross pushes to the forefront and we are tempted to compromise; *“If I give a full 10% of my gross, I won’t have enough to pay my bills, buy food and clothing, pay the rent, make the car payment,...*the list goes on as we justify why we cannot give. The problem is we are not putting God first and have not from the beginning.

Now, God does not want what you do not have. He does not need your money. He is the giver of all we have in the first place. All is His and he shares it with us out of His abundant love for us. We give back to Him what is His in the first place as a token of our love for Him. If we give but a little, we show but a little faith, love, and trust that He will indeed supply all our needs as He promised. It is a matter of where our heart is in this issue, *“For where your riches are, there will your heart be also.”*

So, am I telling you that you need to neglect your present debts and expenses and give that 10% immediately? No, if you are not capable. That would be irresponsible. What I am advocating is to begin to put God first and pray about fulfilling His commandment to give the tithe.

I speak from personal experience in this matter. Before I came to know the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus and professed my belief in Him as Lord and Savior, and began a study of His Holy Word, I was barely making it financially month to month. When it came to His commandment to tithe, I simply took this at face value and desired to obey out of my faith and love for Him, but there was one problem, I didn’t have the ability to tithe as required because there was too much month left at the end of the money.

I began to pray about this, telling God I wanted to obey His command, confessing I had not put Him first in my giving, but

earnestly desired to do so, and asking him to help me. God answered by proving me with a work opportunity that paid three times as much as my present employ. It was at the same time a blessing and a test. There was now more income to allow for the tithe of the 10% of my gross, and to spare. Now the test...would I do it? My answer was yes. I have done so ever since as He continues to bless me. I am not saying this will happen to you, I am not a preacher of the heresy of a faith and prosperity doctrine like some Joel Osteen, I am just telling you God knows what your true needs are, and this is where He will bless you.

Trust me, I have heard the arguments from so many who tell me that the tithe is an Old Testament standard and that they are no longer under the law but now under grace and God does not apply His commandment regarding tithing to the present-day believer. To this I respond with the Word of God Himself; Jesus said that He had not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. He also said, "**When** you give your tithes and offerings..."

I have been told that the standard of 10% does not apply to the gross, but to the net. Not accurate; God uses the term "first-fruits" when giving is expected. Others have said, "I give of my time and talents." This is a good thing, I agree, and we should, but that is a separate matter and may work for any who have absolutely no income at all.

I guess I could go on citing arguments and rationalizations I have heard people use in justifying their lack of obeying God's simple commandment in tithing, but I have consistently observed a common thread among these folks, and that is they are simply not giving to the Biblical standard and seek to justify why they don't. I

have yet to hear an argument from those who are tithing according to God's commandment.

It is critical my dear brothers and sisters that you understand you are giving to God in your tithes and offerings out of obedience to His instructions, in faith, and in love for Him. How many people in churches do not understand this very basic principle. They curtail or fail to give because they don't like the priest or pastor and what he says, or they don't like many of the people in the church for a myriad of reasons; or they don't like the political stance of the church (hopefully not a factor but I have witnessed it.) or they don't believe that God's instructions about tithing apply to this present age. Let me say it again, you are giving to God first and last. And have fulfilled His commandment when you give the tithe. It is between the two of you.

If the pastor is preaching heresy, get out and find a church that preaches the truth according to the Scripture. If the topic of sermons and homilies is geared only to a political viewpoint; leave and find a church that preaches, teaches, and functions according to the Gospels, and take your money with you and give it there. The church where you give becomes the steward of the tithe and is now accountable to God for it. The giver has fulfilled his or her obligation.

God is very clear on the issue of tithing. His very direct words are found in the Book of Malachi 3:8-12:

8 "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings."

9 You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty.

12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

I love where God throws out the challenge; **Test me in this!** Take Him up on it.

You cannot walk out of this church today claiming that you did not hear the concept, principal, and commandment of Biblical tithing. It is the path of blessing through obedience and faith to the one who loves you more than you can ever know or understand in full measure.

All things come of thee O lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

And now, the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be among you and remain with you always.

+Scott

[Matthew 5:17](#)

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

[Matthew 6:21](#)

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[Matthew 23:23](#)

23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

[Numbers 18:21](#)

21 “I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting.

[Numbers 18:26](#)

26 “Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD’s offering

[Proverbs 3:9-10](#)

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

[2 Chronicles 31:4-5](#)

4 He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so they could devote themselves to the Law of the LORD.

5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the first fruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.

[Deuteronomy 12:5-6](#)

5 But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go.

6 there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

[Genesis 14:19-20](#)

19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

[Genesis 28:20-22](#)

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear

21 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God

22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

[Nehemiah 10:35-37](#)

35 "We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the first fruits of our crops and of every fruit tree.

36 "As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there.

37 "Moreover, we will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God, to the priests, the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and of our new wine and olive oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we work.

[Mark 12:41-44](#)

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.

44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

[Leviticus 27:30-34](#)

30 “ ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

31 Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it.

32 Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod—will be holy to the LORD.

33 No one may pick out the good from the bad or make any substitution. If anyone does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute become holy and cannot be redeemed.

34 These are the commands the LORD gave Moses at Mount Sinai for the Israelites.

[Malachi 3:8-12](#)

8 “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings.

9 You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty.

12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

[Luke 6:38](#)

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

[Deuteronomy 14:22](#)

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year.